

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DACCA 05775 220558Z

21

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 AID-05 /082 W
----- 120749

R 220330Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8840
INF AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY RANGOON
USLO PEKING
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 5775

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 16652: XGDS-4

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, BG, IN

SUBJ: TROUBLE IN BANGLADESH: QUIET, NOT PEACE OF MIND PREVAILS

1. AN EMBASSY REVIEW OF SECURITY CONDITIONS IN BANGLADESH AND ALONG ITS

BORDERS INDICATES THAT QUIET HAS AS OF 0800 HOURS NOVEMBER 21 LARGELY
RETURNED. A DISTRICT-BY-DISTRICT SURVEY INVOLVING HOME MINISTRY,
SPECIAL BRANCH, DEFENSE FORCES INTELLIGENCE, OTHER MILITARY, AND
OTHER GOVERNMENTAL SOURCES REVEALED FOLLOWING:

A) CHITTAGONG -- THE PORT IS WORKING NORMALLY, AND WHILE THE
REDRESS OF GRIEVANCES WHICH LED TO THE MUTINEY AT THE
NAVAL BASE ON NOVEMBER 13 IS BEING CONSIDERED, THE BASE IS
FUNCTIONING NORMALLY.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 DACCA 05775 220558Z

B) HILL TRACTS -- APPARENTLY UNTOUCHED.

NOAKHALI -- UNDISTURBED.

D) PATUAKHALI -- NO PROBLEMS.

E) COMILLA -- NO PROBLEMS.

F) SYLHET -- BANGLADESH RIFLES (BDR) IS ACTIVE ALONG FRONTIERS, BUT PROBLEM SEEMS TO BE SUDDEN UPSURGE IN SMUGGLING OF RICE AS PRESENT BUMPER HARVEST IS CUT. THE PROBLEM AT SHARAMPASHA CONTINUES, BUT APPEARS TO INVOLVE MOVEMENTS OF SMUGGLERS RATHER THAN ANY INDIAN EFFORTS AT DISRUPTION.

G) MYMENSINGH -- A FIFTEEN MILE PORTION OF THE BORDER WITH INDIA IN THE HALUAGHAT AREA REMAINS DISTURBED. THE CHIEF CAUSE OF TROUBLE APPEARS TO LIE WITH QADAR SIDDIQUI AND HIS FOLLOWERS. THE INDIAN ROLE IS SAID TO BE LIMITED TO PROVIDING SACTUARY (AND, WE WOULD

SUPPOSE, SUPPORT) FOR SIDDIQUI; EFFORTS AT "HOT PURSUIT" ARE REPORTEDLY BEING THWARTED BY INDIAN BORDER SECURITY FORCE (BSF) BUT ALLEGATIONS THAT BSF IS OPERATING ACROSS FRONTIER SEEM TO HAVE BECOME DE MINIMIS.
H) TANGAIL --GYADAR SIDDIQUI AND HIS BAND HAVE APPARENTLY WITHDRAWN FROM AREA, LEAVING BEHIND MUCH ANIMOSITY FOR ALLEGED TIES WITH INDIA.

I) RANGPUR -- MUTINY IN RANGPUR APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN LIMITED TO ONE DAY: NOVEMBER 8. STATE OF DISCIPLINE OF TROOPS THERE DESCRIBED AS GOOD, AND IMPRESSION THAT SEPOYS WERE ON A RAMPAGE MAY HAVE ARISEN FROM MOVEMENTS ABOUT THE DISTRICT BY SMALL UNITS HUNTING LIEUTENANT COLONEL ZAFAR IMAM (A SUPPORTER OF KHALID MOSHARRAF WHO FLED ON NOVEMBER 7 AND HAS SINCE REPORTEDLY SURREDERED HIMSELF TO OFFICERS AT DACCA CANTONMENT). DISCIPLINE WAS SUFFICIENTLY FIRM TO PERMIT A UNIT FROM RANGPUR TO BE DESPATCHED TO NEIGHBORING DINAJPUR TO AID IN RESTORATION OF ORDER THERE.

J) DINAJPUR -- DISTRICT AUTHORITIES LOST CONTROL DURING PERIOD NOVEMBER 8-9 WHEN MILITARY AND POLICE MUTINIED, BUR SITUATION NOW NORMAL AND UNIT FORM RANGPUR HAS BEEN WITHDRAWN.

K) BOGRA -- NO PROBLEMS.

L) RAJSHAHI -- NO PROBLEMS.

M) RAJSHAHI -- NO PROBLEMS.

N) KUSHTIA -- REPORTS OF CLASHES ON THE BORDER ARE CURRENT, BUT THEY APPEAR TO INVOLVE EFFORTS TO CONTROL SMUGGLING. WHETHER BDR AND BSF HAVE CONFRONTED ONE ANOTHER IS UNCLEAR; IF THEY HAVE, CAUSE MAY BE AS MUCH INADVERTANCE AS ACTIVE HOSTILITY.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 DACCA 05775 220558Z

O) JESSORE -- NO PROBLEMS. TRAVELLERS STATE THAT CLEARING OF BORDER FORMALITIES AT BENAPOL MUCH SIMPLER AND MORE RAPID THAN NORMAL.

P) KHULNA -- SMUGGLERS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE BORDER ARE HARASSING FOREST RANGE OFFICERS, BUT THERE APPEARS TO BE NO OTHER TROUBLES.

Q) FARIDPUR -- NO PROBLEMS.1:

4) BARISAL -- NO PROBLEMS.

S) ALTHOUGH CURFEW CONTINUES, ORDER RESTORED A WEEK AGO.

2. THE RETURN TO MORE STABLE CONDITIONS HAS BEEN ACCOMPANIED BY A FALLING OFF IN CONCERN OVER THE JATIYO SAMAJTANTRIK DAL (JSD). IN LARGE MEASURE, THIS DERIVES FROM THE JSD'S LOSS OF MOMENTUM AS IT BECAME CLEAR THAT IS BACKING WITHIN THE RANKS OF THE MILITARY WAS FAR LESS THAN MIGHT ORIGINALLY HAVE BEEN THOUGHT. THE MUCH MUTED TONE OF THE PAMPHLETS ISSUED BY THE JSD (E.G., SEE DACCA 5739) IS THE CLEAREST EVIDENCE OF ITS GROWING RECOGNITION OF THE LIMITED CHARACTER OF ITS ACCOMPLISHMENTS ON NOVEMBER 7 AND IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER. INSOFAR AS WE CAN DETERMINE, COLONEL TAHER HAS DISAPPEARED FROM SIGHT AFTER AN UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY HIMSELF WITH GENERAL ZIA, WHO WOULD REPORTEDLY HAVE NONE OF IT. TAHER IS ALLEGEDLY NO LONGER SEEN AT DACCA CANTONMENT NOR AT HIS OFFICE

AND HOME IN NARAYANGANJ; BANGALEES SPECULATE THAT HE HAS GONE UNDERGROUND.

3. WHILE A RETURN THUMORE NORMAL DOMESTIC CONDITIONS APPEARS TO HAVE OCCURRED, THERE IS AS YET NO SIGNIFICANT DIMINUTION IN FEARS ABOUT INDIAN INTENTIONS. THE DIRECTOR OF DEFENSE FORCES INTELLIGENCE TOLD OUR BANGALEE POLITICAL ASSISTANT THAT HE STILL RECEIVES REPORTS OF REINFORCEMENTS OF INDIAN FORCES IN THE BORDER AREAS, ALTHOUGH HE NOTES THAT HE HAS NOT THE RECOURCES TO SEEK CONFIRMATION THROUGH OBSERVATION. SINCE WE MUST ASSUME THAT THE DDFI WILL USE A "WOREST CASE" APPROACH IN DEALING WITH REPORTS HE HAS RECEIVED, THE CONCERNS HE VOICES ARE LIKELY TO FEED THE FEARS OF OTHERS. MOREOVER, BANGLAEEES HAVE REPORTEDLY BEEN TROUBLED BY BROADCASTS FROM CALCUTTA OVER AKASHVANI BY DEBDULAL BAERJEE WHICH WOULD SEEM TO PARALLEL THE KINDS OF COMMENT IN THE INDIAN PRESS BEING REPORTED BY AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI (SEE NEW DELHI 15474). THE GOVERNMENT HERE IS EXERTING EVERY EFFORT TO DOWNPLAY INDIAN COMMENT, EVEN WHEN CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 DACCA 05775 220558Z

NOT SO PROVOCATIVE. FOR EXAMPLE, WHILE THE LOCAL PRESS REPORTED THAT STATEMENT FROM NEW DELHI THAT THERE WAS NO RPT NO TROUBLE ON THE INDIA-BANGLADESH BORDER, IT EXCLUDED THE GOI STATEMENT (REPORTED IN THE PARIS HERALD TRIBUNE) THAT IT VIEWED WITH "UTMOST GRAVITY" THE BOMB INCIDENT AT HIGH COMMISSIONER SEN'S RESIDENCE (DACCA 5708). THE FEAR HERE IS THAT, IN REACTION TO SUCH STATEMENTS, THE MUSLIM BANGALEES WILL TOUCH OFF COMMUNAL STRIFE, THUS BRINGING ON INDIAN INTERVENTION. BUT THE FEARS OF THE BANGALEES GO BEYOND THAT SECENARIO. THERE IS CONCERN THAT INDIAN CROSS-BORDER FORAYS WILL IN ANY EVENT OCCUR, THAT THE ARMY WILL BE UNABLE TO COPE WITH THEM, AND THAT AS A RESULT THE AUTHORITY OF THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE DESTROYED. AND INDIA WILL IN THIS SECOND CONTINGENCY, FIND ANOTHER GROUND JUSTIFYING INTERVATION. WHILE ACTUAL EVENTS WITIN BANGLADESH AND ON ITS BORDERS MAY NOT OFFER BANGALEES A BASIS FOR INCREASED APPREHENSIONS, THE STATEMENTS COMING OUT

OF INDIA SEEM TO.
CHESLAW

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SITUATION, CIVIL DISORDERS, PORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975DACCA05775
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X4
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750407-0774
From: DACCA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751119/aaaaaqij.tel
Line Count: 171
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <04 NOV 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TROUBLE IN BANGLADESH: QUIET, NOT PEACE OF MIND PREVAILS
TAGS: PINS, PFOR, BG, IN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006